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Annual Report

on the

Health

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF WILLENHALL

for the Year

1954

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer :

R. C. GUBBINS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. E. T. LOWBRIDGE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

R. F. PILLEY, M.R.S.I.

(Resigned 31st July, 1954).

G. S. WRIGHT, M.R.S.H., M.R.S.I.

(Resigned 8th May, 1954).

J. A. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A.

R. PEEL, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

(Commenced 1st September, 1954).

B. M. ROGER, M.S.I.A.

(Commenced 1st September, 1954).

Clerical Staff :

Miss E. G. DUFFIELD

Miss M. OLIVER

Miss K. PROFFITT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
WALSALL STREET,
WILLENHALL,
STAFFS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1954.

Vital Statistics

During the year there was a slight fall in the birth rate and a slight rise in the death rate (actually 46 less births and 33 more deaths), but in a population of 31,000 these comparatively small annual variations are to be expected and by themselves are not of much significance. This also applies to the fact that there were 4 more infant deaths (i.e. under 1 year of age) than in the previous year, raising the Infant Mortality Rate from last year's low record of 23.1 (per 1,000 live births) to 33.7, which is .9 above that of 1952, which—in its turn—was a low record for the district. What is of more significance is an analysis of the causes and age of death in these infants, which shows that 9 more infants died during the first month of life than in 1953. Of these nine, 7 died during the first *week* of life, (in a total of 9 compared with 2 last year) indicating the causes of death were such as could probably not be avoided, such as prematurity (2 more) and congenital deficiencies and pathological conditions. When I say "avoided" I mean avoided by the Obstetrician or midwife attending the birth. It is quite possible that many of these congenital causes may result from lack of care in preparation for the event by the pregnant mother, such as inattention to diet, fitness, etc. (perhaps through not going to an ante-natal clinic), and perhaps, most of all, to this desire of so many married women to continue "going to work." In past (pre-war) years this was often necessary for economic reasons, but in these times of high wages the main reason seems to me to be a selfish desire for the small or greater luxuries of life, including—for it is a luxury when considered against the necessities of infant welfare—the desire for female society. It would be better for the national health if this (understandable) female urge to chatter were channeled towards such communal activities as sewing meetings, etc. !

Sanitary Circumstances

Sewage Disposal. If the matter of extended Sewage Works is not still “in the melting pot” at least it is still “sitting on the lid.” Let us trust that “the pot” (contents, existing Sewage Works) doesn’t boil over, to the detriment of this community—for the body on the lid is not heavy ; it is only a skeleton. If I could only make sure the result would be minor “scalds” I might wish such would happen—to save major injuries.

Public Sanitary Conveniences. The provision of sufficient public conveniences is a matter that should cease to be shelved. To profess acceptance of the town’s motto, to profess concern for, particularly, the aged, and to omit this public provision is a grave dereliction of duty, apart from its moral inconsistency.

In fairness, this is a difficult problem, and one “funked” by more than one Council. The public want the provision but never near their individual residence—so the problem gets shelved. It should be tackled with firmness and moral courage.

Housing

The year has been made notable by the edict of the Ministry of Health asking Councils to prepare for, and proceed with, Slum Clearance Schemes ; and by the enactment of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into force on 30th August.

The necessary preliminary housing survey and preparation of schemes for the demolition and improvement of property is being undertaken under the supervision of that excellent and efficient servant, Mr. H. E. T. Lowbridge, your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The rate at which progress can be made in clearing and re-housing slum areas will depend upon (a) your new building allocation and (b) the proportion of this you are willing to allocate to slum clearance.

Re-Housing

Under the Council’s Housing Policy, apart from the proportion of the Council’s new houses allocated to this department for re-housing in accordance with the normal activities of a Public Health Department, your re-housing scheme includes provision that medical circumstances (concerned with housing applicants) shall be taken into consideration by your Housing Department. I would like to emphasize the close collaboration and help that that Department affords my Department, and particularly the help

that your Housing Manager affords me personally, in my endeavours to assess correctly and impartially the value of the numerous medical certificates that get presented. This assessment is often very difficult and is a duty that is often very time consuming.

I would end by emphasizing also, the willing assistance afforded to me personally, by all the members of the staff of my Department, and by paying tribute to the spirit of mutual help and comradeship that exists in the Department—a state of affairs that is chiefly a tribute to Mr. Lowbridge.

May I also thank the members of the Public Health Committee, particularly its Chairman, for their help and support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. GUBBINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,834
Population :							
(a) 1951 Census	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30,695
(b) Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-year 1954							31,000
Population density per acre	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.93
Rateable Value of district at 1/4/54				.....	.....	.....	£147,582
General Rate (1954-1955)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23.0d.
No. of houses on Rate Book at 1st June, 1954 :							
Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,359
Houses and Shops		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	346
Licensed Premises		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85
Houses and Business Premises				.....	.....	.....	54
						TOTAL	8,844

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

(Figures in brackets indicate 1953 statistics)

		Births		
Live Births		Total ¹	Males	Females
Legitimate	.....	462	231	231
Illegitimate	.....	12	6	6
		—	—	—
	TOTAL	474	237	237
		—	—	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 population :			15.29	
Comparability factor for births :			0.94	
Corrected BIRTH RATE :			14.37	(16.3)

Still Births	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	13	5	8
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	6	8
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births : 29.5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.45

Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (all causes)	292	160	132
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population :	9.4		
Comparability factor for deaths :	1.34		
Corrected DEATH RATE :	12.59 (10.58)		
Maternal Deaths :	Nil.		
MATERNAL DEATH RATE :	Nil. (Nil).		

Infant Deaths under one year of age

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	16	4	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	4	12
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate

Death Rate of infants under one year of age
per 1,000 live births 33.7 (23.1)

Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	12	2	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	2	10
	—	—	—

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age
per 1,000 live births 25.3 (5.8)

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of Willenhall as estimated by the Registrar-General was 31,000 ; an increase of 130 compared with the mid-year estimate of 30,870 for 1953. The excess of births over deaths for 1954 was 182.

Births

During 1954 there were 474 live births. Of these, there were twelve illegitimate births, comprising 2.5% of the total births, compared with 2.1% in 1953.

The birth rate per 1,000 population fell from 16.86 in 1953 to 15.29 in 1954. The comparability factor for births is 0.94, this gives a corrected or standardised birth rate of 14.37 which is comparable with a rate of 15.2 for England and Wales.

There were 14 still births in 1954, a percentage of 2.9 of the total births compared with 1.7 in 1953. The still birth rate expressed per 1,000 total births was 29.5 compared with 17.3 in 1953, and calculated per 1,000 of the population was 0.45. The rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 23.4.

Deaths

There were 292 deaths in 1954. The death rate was 9.4 per 1,000 population, compared with rates of 8.4 and 10.3 for 1953 and 1952 respectively. Applying the comparability factor of 1.34 for deaths to this crude death rate, a standardised or corrected death rate of 12.59 is obtained, which compares with a rate of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Deaths from certain causes

The last column of the following table shows the number of deaths from certain causes during the year and a comparison is made with corresponding figures for the previous three years :

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cardio-Vascular Diseases	97	87	67	90
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	34	35	34	34
Cancer	44	52	44	52
Bronchitis	31	20	26	30
Influenza	21	1	1	—
Pneumonia	18	24	9	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	8	9	4

Principal Causes of Death

The principal causes of death during 1954 were diseases of the heart and bloodvessels (including vascular lesions of the nervous system) cancer and bronchitis.

Diseases of the Heart and Bloodvessels

Diseases of the heart and bloodvessels together accounted for 124 deaths, 42.4% of the total deaths compared with 38.9% of the total deaths in 1953.

Cancer

Cancer caused 52 deaths compared with 44 in the preceding year. In the ten year period 1945-1954 deaths from cancer averaged 46 annually. Of these cancer deaths common sites for the malignant process were the stomach, lung and bronchus, and the breast and uterus in women.

Cancer of the lung and bronchus caused 10 deaths, compared with 11 in 1953, and 11 in 1952.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis caused four deaths, all of which were due to the pulmonary form of the disease. This is half the number of deaths in 1953, and shows the nation-wide tendency for a decreasing mortality of tuberculosis.

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 21 deaths from violent causes, four of which were due to motor vehicle accidents, nine to other accidents, and eight were due to suicide. This is an increase of 12 from last year, 3 due to road accidents, 7 to other accidents and 2 to suicide.

Age at Death

Of the total deaths recorded, 176 or 60% occurred in persons aged 64 years and over, compared with 59% for 1953.

Infant Mortality

There were 16 deaths of infants under one year, of which 4 were male and 12 female. One illegitimate infant was still-born out of a total of 13 illegitimate births. The infant mortality rate for the year was 33.7 compared with a rate of 23.1 in 1953, and 32.8 in 1952. This rate of 33.7 for 1954 compares with a rate of 25.5. for England and Wales.

Of these 16 deaths occurring under one year, 12 did not survive beyond the first month of life, the neo-natal mortality rate being 25.3 compared with 5.8 for the year 1953.

Reference to Table IV on page 34 shows the causes of infant deaths at different age periods under one year. The commonest causes of infant deaths were those occurring in the first month of life, such as prematurity, cerebral haemorrhage and atelectasis ; that is, causes due to congenital abnormalities and obstetrical difficulties.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1954.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 107 notifications of infectious disease other than tuberculosis during the year, the general incidence being less than one third of that of the previous year, when notifications numbered 515.

The most prevalent of the notifiable diseases were scarlet fever 35 and pneumonia 28 ; both scarlet fever and pneumonia showing an increase compared with 1953, when the notification figures were scarlet fever 14, and pneumonia 12 respectively.

There was a considerable decrease in the measles and whooping cough notifications this year, when measles notifications decreased to 21 as compared with 381 in 1953, and whooping cough notifications decreased to 15 as compared with 102 in 1953. As measles has an almost invariable biennial recrudescence, we may not expect these low number of notifications in 1955.

There were 2 notifications of dysentery, and four notifications of food poisoning.

There were no cases of confirmed diphtheria and no notifications of enteric fever.

Influenza

There were no deaths from this cause. The death rate for England and Wales was 0.04.

Tuberculosis

At the end of 1954 the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register was as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	223	168	391
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	41	74

During the year 20 names were removed from the register for the following reasons :—

Left district	2
Recovered	13
Died	3
Diagnosis not confirmed	2

There were 37 new cases of tuberculosis in 1954 compared with 50 in 1953. Of the 37 cases notified this year, 1 was a non-pulmonary case. One case came to notice other than by formal notification (death returns).

In the ten year period 1945-1954 notifications of tuberculosis averaged 39.6 annually.

There were 4 deaths from this cause, giving a death rate per 1,000 population of 0.12 compared with a rate of 0.17 for England and Wales.

Mass Radiography Unit

The following is a report on the visit in February 1954, of the Mass Radiography Unit.

Just over 8,000 persons were X-Rayed during the visit, and 23 cases of active tuberculosis in adults were discovered (including one teacher from a local school) and 3 in children.

Thirty cases of pneumoconiosis were found, and in three of these there was a super-added tubercular infection.

The Medical Director of the Unit considers that in view of the large number of cases examined who were exposed to dust, the above 30 cases of pneumoconiosis is not excessive.

Various other pathological chest conditions were discovered, including heart lesions in 21 adults and 1 child.

Adults

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number X-Rayed	3321	3253	6574
Number examined by Medical Director (as suspicious T.B. cases)	77	48	125
Active T.B. cases diagnosed	12	11	23
Pneumoconiosis	27	—	27
Pneumoconiosis plus tuberculosis	3	—	3
Congenital and acquired heart conditions	5	16	21

Children

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number X-Rayed	706	754	1460
Number examined by Medical Director	1	12	13
Active T.B. cases diagnosed	1	2	3
Congenital heart condition	—	1	1

Tuberculosis and Housing

The Council's re-housing scheme includes provision not only for "points" on medical grounds (including tuberculosis) but for priority of re-housing to families where existing conditions are such that the tubercular patient has not a bedroom to him or herself. Your Medical Officer not only devotes considerable time to the investigation of these cases but also to ascertaining that the conditions of tenancy of re-housed cases are observed—i.e. that the patient must have exclusive use of a bedroom, and that contacts attend local Chest Clinics for observation. The former condition is difficult to ensure and I fear is often not observed.

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Local "Health Authority" Services

These are provided by the Staffordshire County Council and comprise the following :—

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Midwifery.
3. Health Visiting.
4. Home Nursing.
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Services.
7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.
8. Domestic Help.
9. Mental Health.

For the purpose of administering the above services, the County is divided into nine "areas" with an Area Medical Officer advising each Area Committee. Willenhall is a constituent authority of No. 9 Area, which also includes the Boroughs of Bilston and Wednesbury and the Urban Districts of Darlaston and Wednesfield, and has a total population of approximately 141,000. This local Authority has three representatives on the Area Committee.

The local provisions of the above enumerated services are as follows :—

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-Natal Clinics. There are three sessions per week, held at the Willenhall Clinic, Nurses' Home, Walsall Street, Willenhall, on Tuesday mornings and afternoons and Friday afternoons.*

Infant Welfare Clinics. These are held at the Willenhall Clinic, Walsall Street, on Wednesday afternoons. Also at Short Heath Clinic on Friday afternoons and at Portobello Clinic on the first and third Thursday afternoon of each month.

Clinics for School Children. Minor ailment clinics are held at Willenhall Clinic, Walsall Street, on Monday and Friday mornings. A doctor attends on Mondays. Such clinics are also held at Short Heath on Friday mornings, a doctor attending alternate weeks. An Eye Clinic is held at the Willenhall Clinic on Thursday mornings.

Day Nurseries. There is one Day Nursery in the district at Memorial Park, fifty places.

** Now on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Commenced on Tuesday, 3rd May, 1955.*

2. Midwifery

There are five domiciliary midwives employed by the Staffordshire County Council practising in the district. Hospital accommodation is arranged by either the General Practitioners or the Medical Officer attending the Ante-Natal Clinics—on medical grounds, and by the Local Health Visitors—on sociological grounds.

3. Health Visiting

There are three Health Visitors working in the district. These ladies also attend the various "County" Clinics. They can usually be contacted at the Clinic, Walsall Street, during the day.

4. Home Nursing

There are four District Nurses operating in the district, the functions of the Willenhall District Nursing Association in respect of home nursing having been taken over by the County Council since 1948.

5. Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination is usually carried out by the Local General Practitioners. Immunisation against diphtheria is performed at the Infant Welfare Clinics each week, mostly on children between the ages of eight to twelve months old. Immunisation of school children (the large majority of whom have already been immunised) is carried out at special sessions, at fairly regular intervals by County Council medical officers. Reinforcing ^sdoes are given at the ages of five and ten years at the Infant Welfare Centres, or at the schools.

6. Ambulance Services

Included in the "area" Ambulance Service is an Ambulance Sub-Station in Clemson Street, Willenhall, where a service is provided by three vehicles with a personnel of five men and a Station Officer. This Sub-Station is open from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays. The telephone number is Willenhall 1061. At other times enquiries should be made at the main Ambulance Station, Richards Street, Darlaston, telephone number Jamesbridge 2591/2, where a 24-hour service is available.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

Apart from work performed on behalf of the Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic, Bell Street, Wolverhampton, by the Local Health Visitors, Care and After-Care is undertaken by a Social Worker and an Area Welfare Officer, both centred on Wolverhampton. The former attends to such matters as the provision of convalescent home treatment, extra nourishment, clothing, financial help, etc., whilst

the latter official is more directly concerned in the care of the aged and infirm, and also works in co-operation with Voluntary Agencies for the care of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, for whom there are training facilities and workshops, etc., at Wolverhampton and Walsall. Hostels for the aged are provided by the County Council at Lichfield and Cannock.

8. Domestic Help

A Home Help Service is available and administered by the Area Medical Officer, 20 Hydes Road, Wednesbury, telephone number Wednesbury 0961/2. The service is available for cases of illness, confinement, expectant mothers, mentally defective and aged persons. The number of Home Helps in the “area” at 31st December, 1954, was sixty-one, of whom nineteen are resident in Willenhall.

9. Mental Health

The Area Health Committee maintains an Occupation Centre at Bilston which is available to Willenhall children who are considered ineducable at school.

Other Health Services are as follows :—

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations required by General Practitioners and by the Public Health Department are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford. Chemical examinations—food, water, etc.—are undertaken by the County Analyst, County Buildings, Stafford.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the Urban District, but the following is a list of hospitals available to the inhabitants which, with the exception of the Kingswinford Isolation Hospital, are situated within a distance of three miles from the Urban District :—

Infectious Diseases	.....	Moxley Isolation Hospital, Wednesbury. (including smallpox). Kingswinford Isolation Hospital.
General	.....	Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. General Hospital, Walsall. Manor Hospital, Walsall. Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton.

Maternity Manor Hospital, Walsall.
New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.
Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Accident Prevention

Publicity for the prevention of accidents in the home continues as in previous years by the display of posters in the clinics and elsewhere.

SECTION D.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year no action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

SECTION E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking supplies water to the area and at present a major scheme for the improvement of supplies is almost completed.

The supply of water in the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Chemical and bacteriological examination of samples of water from sources of distribution to the area and from houses in the district have given satisfactory results.

Summary of Results of Bacteriological Examinations

Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes per 100 ml.				
Total Number of Samples taken	0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
847	837	9	1	0

All samples of drinking water taken by this department from houses in the town have shown B. Coli absent from 100 ml.

Chemical Analysis

Chemical analysis of the water from various sources was satisfactory.

The result of a chemical analysis of the water in supply is as follows :—

Sample taken 24th June, 1954

pH Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.3
						<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total Solid Matter Dried at 212°F.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0004
Albuminoid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Nitric Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.25
Chlorine present as Chloride	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.008
Appearance	.....	.....	.....	.....	Clear and colourless	
Metallic Contamination	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Total Hardness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.9 ⁰
Permanent Hardness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.2 ⁰
Temporary Hardness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.7 ⁰

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

Figures are not available giving the proportion of dwelling houses supplied direct from the mains, as apart from those supplied by standpipes.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The only works of note which have been carried out during 1954 are the New Invention Site storm and foul outfall sewers which are designed to take the run-off from approximately 420 houses.

The former is an 18" diameter concrete pipe and its course follows Cannock Road, Wesley Road and thence to the outfall chamber which is constructed at the canal basin south of Wesley Road.

The latter is a 12" diameter stoneware pipe and runs from the estate in an easterly direction under the mineral line and into Hawthorne Road and proceeds in an easterly direction along Hawthorne Road, to discharge into an existing main sewer in Pooles Lane which is of 21" diameter.

Health in Factories

The return made on Form 572 in respect of Part I and VIII of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 is reproduced at the back of this report.

SECTION F.

HOUSING

The Housing Manager has kindly provided the following information :—

Number of houses built and completed by the Local Authority during the year	165
Number of houses completed by private persons	64
Number of houses completed under postwar housing programme by the end of 1954. (This figure includes 150 temporary bungalows and 172 one-bedroom flats)	1,261
Total number of Council houses in district by the end of 1954. (This figure includes 150 temporary bungalows and 172 one bedroom flats)	3,298
Number of families rehoused because of overcrowding	120
Number of families rehoused because of tuberculosis	7
Number of families rehoused from houses on which a demolition order was operative (demolition orders 30, to be demolished 8)	38
Number of families rehoused from Clearance Areas	—

The Council's points scheme for the allocation of houses makes allowance for the consideration of medical conditions in awarding points, and in this connection close co-operation was maintained with the Housing Manager. If applicant or member of his family was suffering from tuberculosis, and housing conditions were unsatisfactory, priority in re-housing was given. Each case was considered separately, on its merits.

SECTION G.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods

Details of the work done during the year in connection with Meat and Other Foods is given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Food Poisoning

There were 4 notifications of food poisoning during the last quarter in the year. These cases were all confirmed.

(a)	Total number of Outbreaks	.....	.....	.....	4
(b)	Number of Cases	.....	.....	.....	4
(c)	Number of Deaths	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks attributable to each				Not known
(e)	Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	.....	.....		Not known

The very unsatisfactory results of the investigations into these cases of food poisoning arises from the fact that notifications of such cases are almost invariably received in the Department too late.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WALSALL STREET,
WILLENHALL,
STAFFS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

During the year legislation was provided which brought about immediate changes in the work of the Department. At the time that meat was de-controlled, the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, required local authorities to undertake the duty of seeing that adequate slaughterhouses were available and further, that meat slaughtered should be inspected.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act which came into operation during the year was an attempt to encourage owners to carry out much needed repairs to arrest the further decay of houses. Local authorities have also been requested to formulate their proposals for clearing the slums—arrangements were in hand by the Department at the end of the year to carry out a survey. The Council has, of course, been doing slum clearance since 1948; from that date the allocation for that purpose has been in the ratio of 1 in 4 and consideration to increase this proportion was envisaged at the end of the year.

Work which is of a routine nature is reported upon in the following pages.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the co-operation I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Officials of other Council Departments, as well as the members of the Health Department staff for their support at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. T. LOWBRIDGE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

The many aspects of work undertaken in connection with Housing are varied and embrace disinfestation of premises for vermin, remedy of defects which may cause a nuisance, representation and demolition of the worst houses by Individual or Clearance Area procedure, issue of Disrepair Certificates under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, or similar procedure under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1933.

Reference is made below to various activities undertaken during the year. The information required under Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, is included in Table XI at the end of the report.

Portobello Clearance Area—Order confirmed	46
Number of families removed during the year from houses already subject to Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	30
Number of Demolition Orders made during the year under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	40
Number of houses demolished following action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	28
Number or parts of buildings upon which Closing Orders under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made	0
Number of Closing Orders made under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	7
Number of privately owned houses closed voluntarily upon tenants being moved	1
Number of Council-owned houses closed upon tenants being moved	8
Number of houses upon which Notices were served requiring repair under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

Under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation during the year the Council must, in an appropriate case (on the tenant's application), issue a Certificate of Disrepair in respect of a house. When this is granted the tenant will be able to withhold any repairs increase in the rent to which the landlord would be entitled under Part II of the Act until the certificate has been revoked by the Local Authority, on application by the landlord.

Applications received and dealt with up to the end of the year were as follows :—

Applications from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair	21
Applications granted	19
Number of applications from landlords for Revocation of Certificates	Nil

Portobello Compulsory Purchase Order, 1953

A Public Enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 16th June, 1954, concerning 46 houses and shops on the North side of High Street, Portobello. The Order was subsequently confirmed with minor modifications. The houses included were of a typical clearance area type having shared water supply, sanitary accommodation and washing facilities; also in many cases an absence of a proper food store and arrangements for the preparation of food as well as unsound floors and walls, inadequate lighting and ventilation, excessive dampness and often extreme disrepair.

Intimations and Abatement Notices served

During the year 277 Intimations were served for defects listed in Table X and generally the Notices were readily complied with. It was, however, necessary to send 38 Abatement Notices. 45 Notices were complied with of which a number were outstanding from the previous year.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

The Thresh Steam Disinfector situated at the Sewage Works was in use on 32 days during the year to steam disinfest bedding, in conjunction with the treatment of furniture by Hydrogen Cyanide, before the removal of 83 families to Council houses.

The treatment of furniture and effects with H.C.N. is carried out by a private company, whilst the bedding from the house from which the furniture is removed is steam disinfested. The operation of the disinfection and disinfestation service as well as the Rodent Service and the spraying of houses and other premises for vermin, is carried out by two workmen attached to the Department.

An increasing number of requests for advice and assistance are received from residents to destroy woodworm in furniture and in woodwork of houses. There is indeed a rapidly increasing demand from the public to the Department for assistance in dealing with all kinds of insect pests and in view of this demand, only advice can often be given because of the claims made in other directions upon the two operators of the Department.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures

The reduction in the number of caravans inhabited by the nomad type of person has again shown a decrease during the year. The site at Darlaston Lane which was, until the formation of a moat, a ~~favourable~~^{FAVOURITE} resort, has again been free from vans. The number of enquiries from persons who wish to station caravans of the trailer type still continues to be high. Up to the present the provision of a properly controlled site by the Council or by private individuals has not materialised.

Caravans occupied by showmen have, as in previous years, occupied the Wakes Ground during the Winter.

FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering

As a result of the Government's decision to decontrol the supply of meat, local authorities were required to give consideration to the slaughtering facilities which would be necessary to ensure that they were adequate. Apart from one slaughterhouse at High Road which was brought into use in October 1953, in conjunction with the Ministry of Food, to assist in the slaughter of animals under the control of that Ministry, and that of a slaughterhouse in the Market Place which had been used for a period for slaughter for bacon curing purposes, no slaughtering for sale had been carried on in the district.

When the Government announced its decision to decontrol meat it reaffirmed its intention to bring about a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country.

In this district there were, on the outbreak of war, some thirteen private slaughterhouses together with a horse slaughterhouse and a knackers yard.

After careful consideration and a number of meetings with the local meat traders, the Council granted licences in the following instances :—

- 3, Fletchers Lane
- 134, Bloxwich Road South
- 5, High Road
- 17, Market Place
- 19, Market Place
- 77, High Street, Portobello
- Pool Hayes Farm—horse slaughterhouse
- Pool Hayes Farm—knackers yard.

5.600.

In the case of 17 and 19, Market Place, the slaughterhouses are for pig slaughtering only. In the instance of 77, High Street, the slaughterhouse is situated in an area which has been the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order and the Council decided to issue a licence for six monthly periods. The licences for the remaining slaughterhouses are for one year.

Considerable work was necessary in some instances in bringing the slaughterhouses up to a standard suitable for use. Proposals suggested by the Sanitary Inspectors' Association were followed in deciding upon a standard.

Meat Inspection

With the decontrol of meat referred to under the preceding heading, the consequent re-opening of private slaughterhouses in July necessitated much time being taken up by Inspectors on the inspection of meat. In addition to time devoted to the work during the day, much time was also required to carry out inspection outside normal office hours. The slaughtering of animals in private slaughterhouses at off times, it should be mentioned, is not because of lack of slaughtering facilities but rather because of the shortage of slaughtermen as well as the awkward time of arrival of animals at the slaughterhouses after being purchased at the auctions.

The quantity of meat surrendered at the slaughterhouses as unfit for human consumption was—2 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

This Act as amended by the Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1953 and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, requires persons slaughtering animals to hold a licence expiring yearly. The licences are now required to specify the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned and the types of instruments which may be used for the purpose. There are 30 slaughtermen now licensed.

Inspection of other foods

Inspection of foods other than meat is an important section of the work of the Department. 377 tins of food were condemned including fish, milk, meat, fruit, etc. Among a variety of reasons for condemnation were—unsatisfactory method of canning in first instance, damage to tins in transport or on premises of wholesaler or retailer and unsatisfactory means of storage causing rusting of tins.

Other foods condemned consisted of cheese, bacon, sausages, pork pies, dates, lemon cordial, biscuits, sweetened fat, etc. The total weight of these foods was 14 cwts. 1 qr. 6 lbs.

The nature of the food ^{shops}~~premises~~ in the district is summarised as follows :—

34 Butchers
186 Grocers
26 Greengrocers
3 Greengrocers and wet fish
4 Cafes and Confectioners
5 Cafes and General Shops
10 Confectioners
22 Fried Fish Shops

Milk

The following licences for the sale of designated milk were issued during the year :—

<i>Dealers' Licences</i>	<i>Supplementary Licences</i>
118 Sterilised	10 Tuberculin Tested
16 Pasteurised	10 Sterilised
1 T.T. Accredited	10 Pasteurised
9 Tuberculin Tested	
1 Accredited	

Ice-cream

Continued improvement has been shown in the hygienic standard of Ice-cream since the introduction of the Ice-cream Heat Treatment Regulations of 1947, as will be seen from the following table :—

			<i>Grade</i>			
			1	2	3	4
1948—	Number taken—	85	27	11	19	28
1949—	„	128	67	29	17	15
1950—	„	190	116	38	21	15
1951—	„	89	48	27	5	9
1952—	„	91	49	32	6	4
1953—	„	86	61	22	2	1
1954—	„	78	74	2	1	1

<i>Provisional gradings</i>				<i>Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue Test</i>
1	.....	.....	.....	4 hours or more
2	.....	.....	.....	2½–4 hours
3	.....	.....	.....	½–2 hours
4	.....	.....	.....	0 hours

Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory and Grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

Registration of Hawkers

Useful provisions are contained in the Willenhall U.D.C. Act, 1939, which require the registration of persons carrying on the trade of hawker and also the registration of the premises from which trading is carried on. During the year 2 hawkers were registered. The present number of hawkers registered in the district is 20.

Licensed Premises

Following the report upon Licensed Premises published last year, many improvements were in hand at premises at the end of the year. These varied from the provision of hot water and sinks, to considerable alterations to the structure of premises.

44 swabs were taken from drinking vessels to ascertain their condition of cleanliness. These were found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year 17 waste water closets were abolished. Although the possibility of making a payment towards the cost of conversion has been discussed, no decision has yet been made to make a contribution. The cost of conversion thus falls upon the owner who invariably increases the rent of the house to cover this cost.

The following table shows the progress made in the abolition of these closets :—

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
43	76	101	92	59	67	17

In addition 6 trough closets were converted to 6 water closets at a factory.

With the acceleration in the progress of slum clearance imminent, the conversion of waste water closets in unfit properties is retarded unless the defects of the closets are such that their conversion is essential.

During the year a further 5 houses at Mill Lane were connected to the sewer thus completing the conversion of cesspools at all houses in this road.

Public Sanitary Conveniences

The provision of public sanitary conveniences to supplement the inadequate ones at present provided has not yet materialised. Accommodation in the form of urinals for men at Cheapside and Walsall Road and conveniences for the use of both sexes at the corner of Walsall Street and Bilston Street are the only accommodation available in the district.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year, 17 smoke observations were made. In 5 instances the period of emission of black smoke exceeded the two minutes permitted by the Bye-laws. The attention of the managements was drawn by interviews and by letters confirming the offences.

Generally there has been good co-operation by managements in reducing the emission of smoke from factories.

Improvement in this district has been effected principally by the substitution of mechanical stoking in place of hand-firing in the case of boilers and by the substitution of gas and electricity in annealing and hardening processes. The substitution of oil-firing in place of coal in a number of furnaces in malleable ironfoundries has brought about a considerable reduction in smoke. The provision of cupolas with grit arrestors and collection of grit in cyclones from various processes is helping considerably to reduce the grit nuisance. This conversion and provision which is proceeding in industry is not the end of the story where atmospheric pollution (or to give the term its more modern title 'Air Pollution') is concerned, for intelligent use and maintenance must be progressive, otherwise the gains of today will be as nought tomorrow.

The report upon Air Pollution published by the Beaver Committee towards the end of the year served to set the seal upon the convictions held by those who have for many years been interested in the subject. The Committee report is emphatic that air pollution on the scale with which we are familiar in this country

today is a social and economic evil which should no longer be tolerated, and that the most serious immediate problem to be tackled is visible pollution by smoke, grit and dust. It is also recognised that the problem cannot be solved overnight.

The Council continue to operate, in conjunction with the Fuel Research Station, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, nine lead peroxide gauges in various parts of the district and a deposit gauge at the rear of the Gas Offices in the Market Place. The nine gauges give us the amount of sulphur trioxide present in the atmosphere whilst the deposit gauge in the Market Place shows the quantity of soluble and insoluble matter deposited. The following are readings of the gauge in the Market Place for five completed years :—

			<i>Average total soluble and insoluble matter in tons per sq. mile</i>
1950	.....	.....	31.21 per month
1951	.....	.....	27.39 „
1952	.....	.....	22.64 „
1953	.....	.....	21.74 „
1954	.....	.....	20.08 „

Sulphur trioxide totals for nine stations calculable from milligrams of S.O.₃ per 100 sq. centimetres per day for five years are as follows :—

1950	.....	.....	167.373
1951	.....	.....	152.967
1952	.....	.....	137.680
1953	.....	.....	150.03
1954	.....	.....	142.79

A further deposit gauge as well as a Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus which records the daily concentration of Sulphur Dioxide and Smoke are provided at the works of Messrs. John Harper & Co. Ltd. The thanks of the Council are due to the management of the Company not only for the provision of the gauges mentioned but also for carrying out monthly, on behalf of the Council, the analysis of all their gauges.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which came into operation in April, 1952, aims at securing that all animals, birds and fishes, shall be kept in suitable premises, that they shall be properly fed, that they shall not be sold

at too early an age, that precautions shall be taken to prevent the spread of disease, and that suitable steps will be taken to prevent injury in case of fire.

The Council have registered 4 premises.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There do not appear to be any premises for manufacture of furniture, bedding, toys etc. (in which filling is used), neither are there premises where filling is manufactured. There are, therefore, no premises subject to registration or annual licensing.

There are eight premises concerned with the furniture trade where filling is used or sold.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

As in the previous year two men have continued to carry out rodent work as well as disinfection and disinfestation duties. The rodent work undertaken, whether it be routine treatment or attention to complaints, is invaluable in keeping the number of rats in the district to a minimum. The treatment of dwelling houses is carried out without charge, a consideration which encourages prompt notification by occupiers and so enables treatment to be given before an infestation reaches unreasonable proportions.

A charge covering the cost of time and materials is made for business premises.

Considerable advice and assistance is also given in dealing with mice.

In addition to treatment of dwelling houses and business premises, attention was given to Sewers, Refuse Tips and the River Tame.

A summary of work carried out is given below, whilst a detailed table is given at the end of the report.

All premises				<i>15 months to 31/3/54</i>	<i>12 months to 31/3/55</i>
Inspection	{	Notified .....	.....	136	173
		Surveys .....	.....	361	491
Infested with	{	Rats .....	.....	130	106
		Mice .....	.....	61	68
Revisits		.....	.....	1,127	1,609
Prebait laid for rats		.....	.....	2,892	1,832
Poison bait takes		.....	.....	1,964	1,513
Poison baits laid for mice		.....	.....	1,114	1,586

SWIMMING BATHS

During the season in which the Baths were open, samples were taken and submitted to Chemical and Bacteriological examination. The chlorination plant which underwent overhaul the previous year has given satisfactory results this year as the 2 samples which were submitted show.

FACTORIES

During the year there were 137 inspections of factories and 14 Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. There are 326 factories in the district. A wide variety of articles are manufactured in the district including locks, drop forgings, brass and malleable iron castings.

Table I.

**BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1954**

					WILLENHALL	ENGLAND AND WALES
					Rates per 1,000 Home Population	
Births						
Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.37	15.2
Still Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.45	23.4 ^a
Deaths						
All Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.59	11.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.12	—
Influenza	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.38	—
Notifications (Corrected)						
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.12	—
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.48	—
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.03	—
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.67	—
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.90	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Paralytic	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Non-Paralytic	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.12	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Tuberculosis :—Respiratory	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.16	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
Other	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.03	—
Deaths					Rates per 1,000 live births	
All causes under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	33.7	25.5 ^b
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.1	0.8
					Maternal Mortality in England and Wales. Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Maternal causes, excluding abortion	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.00	0.58
Due to Abortion	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.00	0.11
Total Maternal Mortality	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.00	0.69

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) per 1,000 related live births.

Table II.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT
DURING 1954**

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis Respiratory System	3	1	4
Cancer of Stomach	5	7	12
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	10	—	10
Cancer of Breast	1	4	5
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer all other sites	10	14	24
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	3	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	18	34
Heart Diseases	37	35	72
Othes diseases of circulatory system	9	9	18
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Bronchitis	23	7	30
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	4	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	6	3	9
Suicide	6	2	8
All other causes	12	20	32
All Causes	160	132	292

Table III.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF DEATHS ARRANGED IN AGE GROUPS

AGE GROUP	1st QUARTER		2nd QUARTER		3rd QUARTER		4th QUARTER		TOTAL		PERCENTAGE
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	—	3	2	4	2	3	—	2	4	12	5.4%
1— 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.34%
5—10 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 "	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	0.68%
15—25 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.34%
25—35 "	3	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	5	3	2.7%
35—45 "	3	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	8	—	2.7%
45—55 "	1	2	6	2	3	4	3	1	13	9	7.4%
55—65 "	12	7	7	3	10	4	12	5	41	19	20.4%
65—80 "	32	15	15	10	14	16	12	15	73	56	43.8%
80 years and over	6	7	3	6	6	4	2	13	17	30	15.9%
TOTALS 	59	35	33	25	39	34	32	37	163	131	

Table IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1954

CAUSE OF DEATHS	Under 1 day	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total deaths under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Uraemia	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Intracranial birth injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Anoxia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malform- ation of heart	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	6	3	2	—	1	12	2	1	1	—	16

Table V.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954 (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE	Total	AGE GROUPS—YEARS											65 & over
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	
Scarlet Fever	35	1	2	2	4	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	28	5	1	—	—	1	3	—	3	1	2	7	5
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	4	3	2	4	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	1	—	5	2	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	107	12	7	9	12	9	36	1	4	3	2	7	5

Table VI.

TUBERCULOSIS

in Willenhall (including the former Short Heath U.D.) showing the new cases notified and the deaths each year since the commencement of compulsory notification

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1912	85	—	19	1
1913	87	24	22	13
1914	66	22	21	13
1915	55	11	13	12
1916	65	13	23	11
1917	71	18	28	6
1918	56	8	44	4
1919	29	6	20	7
1920	29	6	14	4
1921	24	—	24	2
1922	55	15	34	7
1923	45	12	30	9
1924	19	5	27	5
1925	67	14	25	10
1926	71	11	24	5
1927	25	12	25	4
1928	39	12	17	3
1929	40	9	34	3
1930	42	3	29	3
1931	36	5	27	1
1932	36	3	16	6
1933	41	11	26	4
1934	45	5	14	5
1935	33	9	25	5
1936	47	5	14	3
1937	44	8	25	6
1938	45	8	22	6
1939	30	7	20	3
1940	40	5	24	3
1941	40	9	25	9
1942	38	7	23	—
1943	49	12	18	3
1944	42	10	19	3
1945	30	4	25	—
1946	35	9	20	1
1947	40	9	20	7
1948	41	3	25	3
1949	34	2	11	—
1950	31	1	12	—
1951	34	3	10	—
1952	32	1	8	2
1953	47	3	9	—
1954	36	1	4	—
TOTALS	1896	341	915	192

Table VII.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED FROM 1944-1954

DISEASE	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	55	89	51	45	102	31	15	42	32	14	35
Diphtheria	18	18	19	21	22	9	6	8	3	—	—
Pneumonia	35	40	21	18	15	27	21	29	34	12	28
Erysipelas	6	6	7	3	8	8	3	4	3	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	2	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	3	4	6	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
Ophthalmia	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Neonatorum											
Dysentery	2	1	—	31	1	1	—	—	—	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	2	1	3	2	—	1	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute											
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	14	262	6	409	277	122	255	239	134	381	21
Whooping Cough	92	51	71	68	121	35	187	58	74	102	15
Malaria	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
TOTALS	226	473	183	608	547	239	492	386	283	515	107

Table VIII.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948—ANNUAL REPORT

1.—INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	326	137	14	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL	—	326	137	14	—	—

Table VIII.—*continued*

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	by H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	14	12	—	6	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)	60	14	12	—	6	—	60
TOTAL							

Table IX.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL ROUTINE VISITS OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Complaints, requests for visits of Inspectors made to the Sanitary Department	2,376
Primary inspection of Dwelling Houses	2,208
Revisits	1,014
Absence of adequate water supply, or satisfactory water supply	27
Drainage	244
Inspections of premises where pigs and other animals are kept	19
Offensive Trades	25
Tents, Vans and Sheds	91
Factories and Workshops	153
Smoke Observations	17
Schools	5
Cinemas	6
Shops (Sanitary provisions of Shops Acts)	225
Butchers' Premises	214
Fried Fish Shops	53
Bakehouses	13
Rats and Mice	89
Grocers	285
Food Preparation Premises	65
Licensed Premises	176
Fishmongers and Poultry Dealers	24
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	66
Cowsheds and Dairies	12
Ice Cream Premises	182
Slaughterhouses	1,008
Knackers Yard	58
Examination of Cottagers' Pigs	6
Market Stalls	491
Restaurants	48
Hawkers	43
Visits to works in progress	231
Verminous Premises and visits regarding disinfestation prior to removal of tenants	467
Infectious Disease	26
Accumulation of Refuse	22
Waste Water Closets and Water Closets	122
Overcrowding	34
Atmospheric Pollution Gauges	106
Inspections not classified	11

Number of Intimation Notices served	.....	.....	.....	277
Number of Intimation Notices complied with	.....	.....	.....	152
Number of Abatement Notices served	.....	.....	.....	38
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	.....	.....	.....	45

Table X.

PRINCIPAL IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY COMPLIANCE
WITH NOTICES—Dwelling Houses

Internal

Wall and ceiling plaster or brickwork	.....	.....	.....	41
Doors and window frames	.....	.....	.....	35
Defective firegrates	.....	.....	.....	6
Floors	.....	.....	.....	21
Stairs	.....	.....	.....	4
Dampness	.....	.....	.....	10
Cellars	.....	.....	.....	6
Dirty conditions	.....	.....	.....	1

External

Roofs	.....	.....	.....	81
Chimneys	.....	.....	.....	10
Eaves guttering and down spouting	.....	.....	.....	32
Paving	.....	.....	.....	4
Drainage	.....	.....	.....	15
Fractured and defective brickwork	.....	.....	.....	8

Washing Accommodation

Washing boilers	8
Defective sinks	.....	.....	.....	11
Absence of or defective water supply	.....	.....	.....	7

Sanitary Accommodation

Insufficient or defective W.C's.	.....	.....	.....	33
Defective waste water closets	.....	.....	.....	14
Accumulations	.....	.....	.....	1
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	.....	.....	.....	3

Food Premises—including Butchers, Grocers, Fried Fish Shops,
Bakehouses, Licensed Premises.

Internal

Floors	4
Wall and ceiling plaster	5
Dirty condition of rooms	12

External

Roofs	1
-------------	---

Washing Accommodation

Sinks	4
Absence of or defective water supply	14
Absence of washing facilities	2

Sanitary Accommodation

Dirty condition of W.C.	2
Absence of or defective W.C.	6
Accumulations	2
Miscellaneous	10

Table XI.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS WITH RESPECT TO UNFIT HOUSES

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 2,208
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 3,222
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 250
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 375
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 59

**Remedy of Defects during the year without service of
Formal Notices**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
---	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :

(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 121

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners 25

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 40

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 28

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

(e) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 7

Table XII.
UN SOUND FOOD

	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
5 tins Fish			9½
52 tins Meat	1	3	1
20 tins Milk and Cream			24
300 tins and jars Fruit, Jam and Vegetables	3	2	12
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 18½ <hr/>

Other foods condemned consisted of Cheese, Bacon, Raisins, Sausages, Pork Pies, Ice-Cream Powder, Sweetened Fat and Biscuit Cones, etc.—8 cwts., 2 qrs., 15½ lbs.

Table XII.—continued

PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED, TOGETHER WITH PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES OR PARTS THEREOF CONDEMNED, IN FORM REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	371	10	82	3,094	3,718	113
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	52	5	—	85	181	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis	14%	50%	—	2.77%	4.89%	28.32%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	11	4	—	2	101	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.97%	40%	—	0.64%	2.85%	—

Weight found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption :—

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS	4	3	2 ³ / ₄	Carcase Meat
	18	0	7 ³ / ₄	Offals.
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY	4	3	21	Carcase Meat
	14	0	8 ³ / ₄	Offals.
	2	1	3	12 ¹ / ₄ TOTAL

Table XIII.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FOR THE METHYLENE BLUE TEST

	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
January	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	6	6	—	—	—
April	8	8	—	—	—
May	8	7	—	1	—
June	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—
September	16	15	—	—	1
October	14	12	2	—	—
November	12	12	—	—	—
December	14	14	—	—	—
Total	78	74	2	1	1
Taken in 1953	86	61	22	2	1

No. of Ice Cream Premises registered for sale of Ice Cream during 1954 6

Premises on register for manufacture or sale of Ice Cream :—

Manufacturers by Cold Mix Method 2

Manufacturers by Hot Mix Method 1

No. of shops registered for the sale of Ice Cream 96

REGISTRATION OF HAWKERS

No. of Hawkers registered during 1954 under the Willenhall Urban District Council Act 2

Table XIV.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES AND ARTICLES

Number of houses disinfected with Formalin or Formaldehyde 12

Number of houses sprayed with Insecticide to destroy vermin including fleas, bugs, cockroaches, ants, woodworm, etc.:

Private 43

Council 47

Articles disinfected and disinfested—bundles of bedding 504

Table XV.

SAMPLING BY FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY (Staffordshire County Council)

List of samples taken during the year 1954 :—

Milk

Milk Pasteurised	.....	.....	23
Milk Sterilised	.....	.....	31
Milk Accredited	.....	.....	1
Milk T.T.	.....	.....	5
Milk T.T. Certified	.....	.....	1
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	.....	.....	14
Milk T.T. Channel Island	.....	.....	2
			—
Total	.....		77
			—

Number of samples taken	.....	77
Number of samples genuine	.....	73
Number of samples adulterated		4

General Foods

Number of samples taken	.....	38
Number of samples genuine	.....	36
Number of samples adulterated		2

Classification of General Foods

Beef Tongue and Ham Paste	Traffic Lights
Sweetened Orange	Ground Almonds
Prunes in heavy syrup	Fresh Orange Drink
Oat Cakes	Apricots in syrup
Essence of Coffee and Chicory	Ice-Cream
Sauce	Bicarbonate of Soda
Sugar Sweetened Cake Flour	Ground White Pepper
Dried Onions	Corned Beef with Cereal
Chicken Soup	(3 samples)
Pork Sausage (Cont. preservative)	Dried Prunes
Sausage Rolls	Dried Sage
Desiccated Coconut	Garden Peas
Demerara Sugar	Fruit Salad
Pears in heavy syrup	Beef Sausage
Cockles in Malt Vinegar	Steak Pie
Danish Butter	Orange Crush
Lemonade Powder	Sunchoc (Sweetened)
Fizzing Strawberry Sherbert	Horlicks
	Cooking Fat

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

Sterilised Milk—Formal— 6.7% deficient in fat —*Defective plunger*
Sterilised Milk—Formal—18.3% ,, ,, —*in receiving tank*
Sterilised Milk—Formal— 3.3% ,, ,, — *at Dairy.*
Sterilised Milk—Formal— 1.7% ,, ,, —

Pork Sausage—Formal—37.5% deficient in its proper
proportion of meat—Business closed down.

Beef Sausage—Formal—contained undeclared preservatives—
Labels now in order.

Table XVI.

SULPHUR POLLUTION

Lead Peroxide Gauges. Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in milligrams per 100 sq. cm. per day

1954	Cemetery, Walsall Road	Memorial Park	66, Dilloways Lane	James Works, St. Anne's Road	66, Broad Lane	Lodge Farm, Short Heath	Ravens- croft, Lodge Street	145, Pooles Lane	J. Harper & Co. Ltd. Clarkes Lane	
January	2.85	3.07	2.65	2.54	1.96	2.94	1.69	1.97	2.98	
February	2.43	3.51	2.72	2.41	1.72	2.83	1.7	1.61	1.87	
March	2.02	2.3	1.7	1.94	1.08	1.87	1.16	1.18	1.61	
April	1.34	1.4	1.25	1.36	.88	1.29	.85	.83	1.33	
May	.9	1.26	1.31	1.22	.90	1.17	.8	1.01	.92	
June	.61	.98	.76	1.03	.45	.69	.46	.6	.69	
July	.41	.62	.52	.59	.37	.47	.4	.45	.58	
August	.53	.59	.71	.77	.63	.53	.48	.42	.83	
September	.82	.86	.98	.78	.85	.89	1.19	.79	1.2	
October	1.08	1.45	1.34	1.81	.91	1.14	.99	1.14	1.19	
November	1.86	1.86	1.99	1.93	1.53	1.89	1.26	1.47	1.12	
December	1.85	1.5	1.66	1.65	1.39	1.81	1.37	1.24	1.5	
TOTAL OF DAILY AVERAGES FOR EACH STATION FOR YEARS 1950-1954.										Total for all Stations
1950	15.561	21.799	17.638	28.131	15.618	18.415	14.371	13.033	22.807	167.373
1951	14.27	27.85	15.03	24.02	11.665	16.15	12.231	13.571	18.18	152.967
1952	12.068	26.24	13.442	23.71	10.036	14.81	10.896	10.618	15.86	137.680
1953	15.67	29.75	16.36	18.78	12.23	15.80	12.20	13.67	15.57	150.03
1954	16.70	19.40	17.59	18.03	12.67	17.52	12.35	12.71	15.82	142.79

Table XVII.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Deposit Gauges situated in Market Place at rear of Gas Offices and in the grounds of Messrs. John Harper & Co. Ltd., Clarkes Lane, Willenhall.

Recordings for the Year 1954

Deposits in tons per square mile

	<i>Market Place</i>			<i>J. Harper & Co. Ltd. Clarkes Lane</i>		
	<i>Insoluble</i>	<i>Soluble</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Insoluble</i>	<i>Soluble</i>	<i>Totals</i>
January	11.46	7.04	18.50	8.37	6.26	14.63
February.....	16.21	10.51	26.72	13.68	8.78	22.46
March	17.86	14.76	32.62	10.17	8.85	19.02
April	9.36	4.31	13.67	7.86	3.54	11.40
May	12.26	10.98	23.24	4.19	9.94	14.13
June	4.17	6.67	10.84	4.59	7.28	11.87
July	13.24	6.23	19.47	6.40	7.15	13.55
August	4.55	13.11	17.66	2.0	8.23	10.23
September	11.89	6.77	18.66	6.98	11.75	18.73
October	9.06	8.96	18.02	3.57	7.08	10.65
November	12.26	13.07	25.33	14.33	8.96	23.29
December	9.13	7.14	16.27	8.30	10.55	18.85

Table XVIII.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1955

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Author- ity	Dwelling Houses	All other (includ- ing business premises)	Total	Agricul- tural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	8,500	1,000	9,510	11
2. Number of properties inspected	6	407	251	664	8
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	45	1,110	454	1,609	
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested :—					
Rats	3	91	12	106	
Mice	1	49	18	68	
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	4	140	30	174	
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	11	161	54	226	
7. Number of notices served under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of notice	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of 'block' control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

River Tame

Number of visits	26
Number of pre-baits laid	608
Number of poison baits laid	160

